Policy on joint ventures

772. KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to for mulate a ne_w policy for facilitating the establishment of Indian joint ventures abroad which may allow companies to make cash investments;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be announced or implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The current guidelines for setting up joint ventures abroad do not prohibit cash remittance towards equity participation.

However, Government is considering revision of the existing guidelines.

Government's priority to export canned foods

773. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in Sunday Mail on 2nd-8th February, 1992 that Government are giving priority to canned foods;

(b) whether it will be ensured that such exports do not hike prices of raw materials in the country;

(c) whether it will be ensured that such exports also do not lead to further malnutrition amongst our vulnerable groups; and

(d) whether the lession learnt from wheat and milk imports will be kept in mind?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government accords high priority to export of canned foods as such activities involve value addition besides creating job opportunities in the country. Moreover exports of canned foods are very nominal in relation to the total agricultural production in the country and have hardly any effect on availability or prices of raw material for local consumption. The foreign exchange earned out of such exports contributes to the total foreign exchange earning which are utilised for import of fertilisers, edible oil etc.

Import of wheat, cotton and edible oils

774. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report in the Indian Express of 24th January, 1992, captioned "Centre rides' piggy-back on imports";

(b) if so, what are the reasons for Government's decision to import more and more of wheat, cotton and edible oils, despite the bumper crop of wheat, and cotton and estimated record production of rapeseed and mustard in the country; and

(c) what other steos have been taken to curb the awkward rising trend in prices of the two essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

India's management professionals inviited in Romania

775. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Romania has invited management professionals from India to help their entrepreneurs;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) During the 10th meeting of Indo-Romanian Joint Commission for Economic, Technical and Scientific Cooperation held in New Delhi on 18th & 19th December, 1991, the need for intensive contacts at the levels of the institutions in the two countries, their Chambers of Commerce and commercial enterprises etc. was noted by the two countries. There was however, no specific invitation for the services of management professionals from India for helping Romanian enterprises.

Trade relation with Japan

776. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU. Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any steps to improve trade relations with Japan;

(b) if so, what are the different items being exported to and imported from Japan; and

(c) what are the new areas identified for expansion of bilateral trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Japan is an important trade partner for India and steps for improving bilateral trade are taken by the Government on a continuing basis. These include periodic review of trade at official level, exchange of delegations, participation in international fairs in Japan, market surveys ete.

(b) and (c) Iron ore, diamods, shrimps, other ores and minerals, cotton garments chemicals and pharmaceuticals and among major Indian exports to Japan. Iron & Steel, machinery, project goods, transport equipment etc. are items among major Indian imports from Japan.

Leather, light engineering goods, gold jewellery, cat-plots, readymade garments are among areas which provide immediate possibilities for increasing exports to Japan.

Export of value added goods

777. SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister had desired to export value added goods to earn more foreign exchange and give more employment; and

(b) if so. what incentives are being given and what actions are being taken to encourage value-added goods for exports?

THE MINISTR\ OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Fifteen broad sectors|prodiuct groups have been identified for making special thrust in markets abroad without minimising the importance of increasing exports from other sectors. The broad approach of the Govt, is towards making export commercially viable through spreading industrial capability ensuring supply of raw materials at competitive prices, strengthening infras-tructure and simplifying the procedures, with this objective, the Govt, has introduced i package of trade policy reforms aimed at strengthening of export incentives and eliminating substantial volume of import licensing. REP licences have been replaced by Eximscrips. Export of certain products/product groups such as value-added agriculture products, marine products, electronics, bulk drugs and for-